BASED ON THE VIRTUAL WORLD PHENOMENON *FREE REALMS!*

Free Realms™

#7 MAY 10

Exclusive In-Game Reward Inside! Collect all 12. See page 28 for details on collecting the BRAVERY BISCUIT

WILDSTORM

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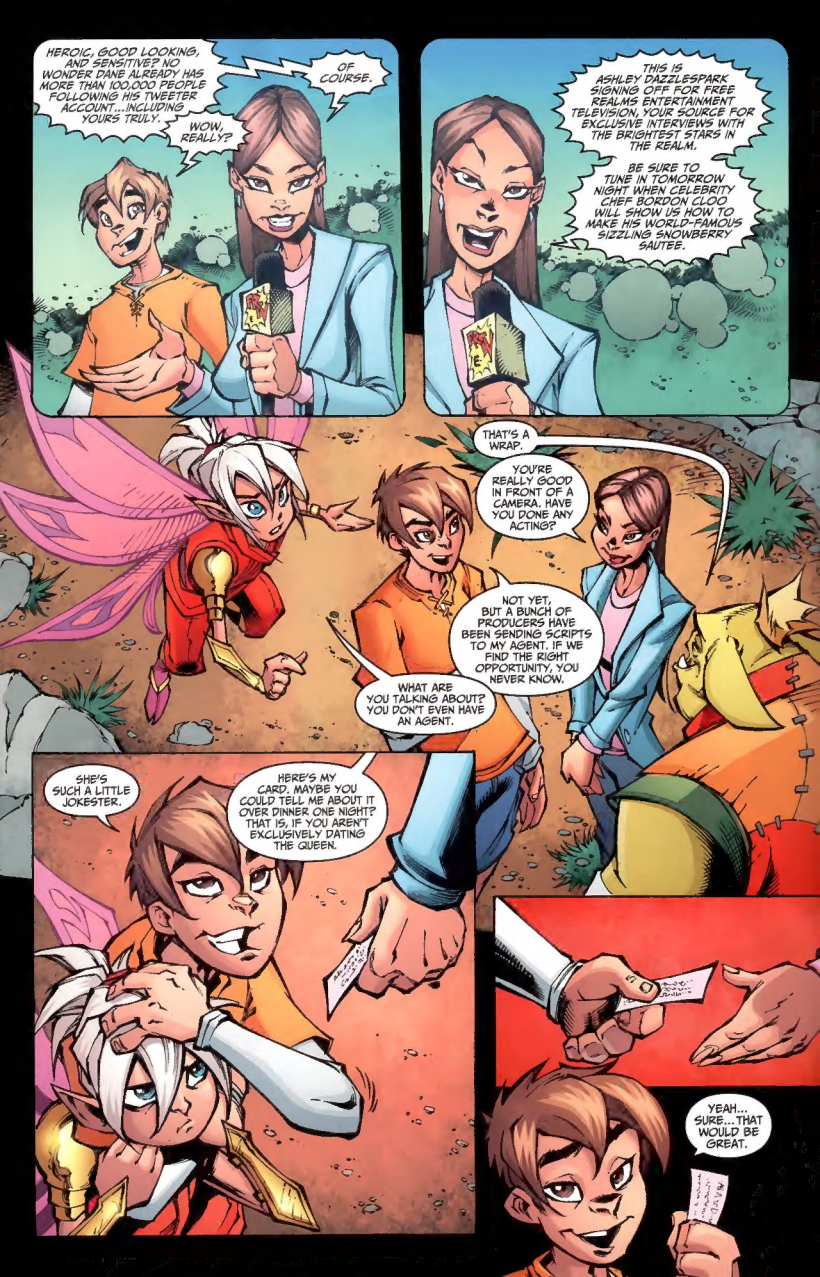
LEWIS • SOMMARIVA • MARTINEZ

PEOPLE ARE FAMOUS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS. SOME STAY FAMOUS FOREVER. OTHERS FADE WHEN THEIR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME ARE UP.
THANKS TO BLOGS, VIRAL VIDEOS, AND REALITY TELEVISION, THERE'S A WHOLE NEW CROP OF CELEBRITIES. TAKE DANE AND MAYA, FOR INSTANCE. THEY FOUND OUT THAT WHEN YOU SAVE SOMEONE'S LIFE, PEOPLE TAKE NOTICE.
HOWEVER, WHEN YOU SAVE THE LIFE OF A QUEEN, YOU BECOME AN INSTANT CELEBRITY. WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RESCUING QUEEN VALERIAN, DANE AND MAYA WENT ON A METEORIC RISE FROM COMPLETE ANONYMITY TO SUPERSTAR STATUS.
DANE WELCOMED THE ATTENTION, AND WAS READY TO DO ANYTHING TO STAY IN THE SPOTLIGHT.
MAYA DIDN'T FEEL THE SAME WAY. SHE LOATHED EVERY LAST MINUTE. ALL SHE WANTED TO DO WAS TAKE A VACATION. IT DIDN'T MATTER WHERE SHE WENT, AS LONG AS THERE WERE NO PAPARAZZI.

ARE HEROES MADE OR BORN? WOW, ASHLEY. THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION. I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT IN MY CASE IT WAS PROBABLY A LITTLE OF BOTH.
HOW SO?
AN ORACLE ONCE TOLD MY PARENTS THAT I WAS DESTINED FOR GREATNESS. WHO AM I TO ARGUE?
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK.
STILL, I DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE MY DESTINY FOR GRANTED. HALF OF BEING A HERO IS LOOKING THE PART, SO I SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN THE GYM AND I WATCH WHAT I EAT.
WERE YOU AWARE THAT TEEN HEARTTHROB MAGAZINE LISTED YOU AS THE MOST ELIGIBLE BACHELOR IN FREE REALMS THIS WEEK? YOU'RE EVEN ON THE COVER.
HOW DO I LOOK?
ALMOST AS GOOD AS YOU LOOK IN PERSON.
AND HERE I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY.
SO TELL ME, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE QUEEN VALERIAN THROW A ROYAL SCAVENGER HUNT IN YOUR HONOR? THERE HASN'T BEEN ONE FOR OVER A CENTURY.
I WAS FLATTERED.
AND WHAT ABOUT THE RUMORS THAT YOU AND THE QUEEN ARE DATING? THERE'S A VIRAL VIDEO OF YOU TWO DANCING TOGETHER AT THE KICK-OFF PARTY LAST NIGHT. IT HAD OVER 100,000 HITS IN THE FIRST HOUR IT WAS POSTED.

I'M SORRY, BUT I MAKE IT A POLICY NOT TO COMMENT ABOUT MY PERSONAL LIFE.
SOME MIGHT TAKE THAT AS AN ADMISSION THAT YOU REALLY ARE SEEING THE QUEEN.
NO COMMENT.
THEN HOW ABOUT A PREDICTION? WHO WILL WIN THE QUEEN'S SCAVENGER HUNT?
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY--I WOULDN'T BET AGAINST TEAM DANE.
WHICH REMINDS ME, YOU CAN GO TO MY NEW WEBSITE TO ORDER YOUR TEAM DANE GEAR RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE T-SHIRTS, HATS, POSTERS, AND NEXT WEEK WE'RE EVEN LAUNCHING A LINE OF ACTION FIGURES. THE ADVENTURER DANE LOOKS INCREDIBLE. I THINK THAT THE SCULPTOR REALLY CAPTURED MY RUGGED GOOD LOOKS.
AND WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE "KART RACER" DANE. THE LIGHTNING CUP THAT COMES WITH IT LOOKS AUTHENTIC! BUT "BRAWLER" DANE HAS TO BE MY FAVORITE. CHECK THIS OUT, IT EVEN HAS KUNG-FU ACTION GRIP AND NINETY-NINE POINTS OF ARTICULATION!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR SIDEKICK? WILL THERE BE ANY MAYA ACTION FIGURES?
THEY DIDN'T TEST AS WELL DURING OUR MARKET STUDIES, BUT WE ARE STILL GOING TO HAVE A COUPLE TO CHOOSE FROM.
DEPENDING ON HOW THE SALES GO, WE MIGHT EXPAND THE LINE. AFTER ALL, SHE DESERVES A LITTLE BIT OF THE SPOTLIGHT, TOO.

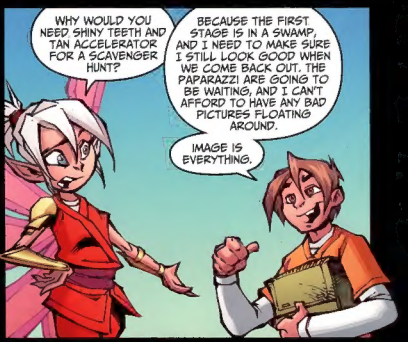

HEROIC, GOOD LOOKING, AND SENSITIVE? NO WONDER DANE ALREADY HAS MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE FOLLOWING HIS TWEETER ACCOUNT...INCLUDING YOURS TRULY.
OF COURSE.
WOW, REALLY?
THIS IS ASHLEY DAZZLESPARK SIGNING OFF FOR FREE REALMS ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION, YOUR SOURCE FOR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE REALM.
BE SURE TO TUNE IN TOMORROW NIGHT WHEN CELEBRITY CHEF BORDON CLOO WILL SHOW US HOW TO MAKE HIS WORLD-FAMOUS SIZZLING SNOWBERRY SAUTEE.
THAT'S A WRAP.
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD IN FRONT OF A CAMERA. HAVE YOU DONE ANY ACTING?
NOT YET, BUT A BUNCH OF PRODUCERS HAVE BEEN SENDING SCRIPTS TO MY AGENT. IF WE FIND THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY, YOU NEVER KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE AN AGENT.
SHE'S SUCH A LITTLE JOKESTER.
HERE'S MY CARD. MAYBE YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT IT OVER DINNER ONE NIGHT? THAT IS, IF YOU AREN'T EXCLUSIVELY DATING THE QUEEN.
YEAH... SURE...THAT WOULD BE GREAT.

TOODLES.
TOODLES? WHO TALKS LIKE THAT?
DON'T BE JEALOUS.
JEALOUS? YOU HAVE *GOT* TO BE KIDDING ME. WHY WOULD I BE JEALOUS OF THAT GOSSIP QUEEN?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S RICH, FAMOUS, AND BEAUTIFUL.
YOU DO REALIZE THAT ONCE YOUR FIFTEEN MINUTES OF FAME IS UP, SHE WON'T GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY, RIGHT?
WAIT A MINUTE...I GET IT NOW. YOU'RE UPSET BECAUSE SHE ASKED ME OUT, AREN'T YOU?
YOU REALLY ARE DELUSIONAL.
MY PUBLICIST TOLD ME THAT IF YOU'D STOP SCOWLING AND SMILE A LITTLE MORE, YOU'D HAVE AS MANY ENDORSEMENT DEALS AS YOU'D WANT. TEENAGE BOYS WOULD LINE UP TO BUY WHATEVER PRODUCT YOU PITCH, BUT RIGHT NOW THEY'RE SCARED OF YOU.
NOW YOU HAVE AN AGENT *AND* A PUBLICIST?
WHAT CAN I SAY? IT'S THE PRICE OF FAME.
WHAT'S NEXT, A RECORD DEAL?
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA. I'LL HAVE MY PEOPLE LOOK INTO IT.

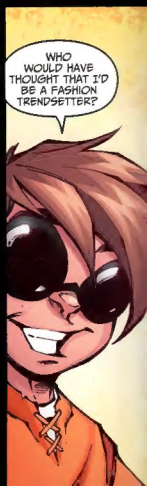
AT LEAST TELL ME THAT "YOUR PEOPLE" MADE SURE THAT YOUR EQUIPMENT IS PACKED AND READY TO GO. THE SCAVENGER HUNT IS TOMORROW. YOU KNOW, THE ONE THAT QUEEN VALERIAN IS THROWING IN OUR HONOR?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO HAVE MY PEOPLE WORKING ON IT.

HERE THEY COME NOW.

HERE YOU GO, DANE. WE GOT EVERYTHING YOU ASKED FOR.
WE EVEN FOUND THAT PEAPOD PIXIE DUST. IT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR TEETH ALL SHINY AND WHITE.
WHAT ABOUT MY TAN ACCELERATOR?
CHECK!


WHY WOULD YOU NEED SHINY TEETH AND TAN ACCELERATOR FOR A SCAVENGER HUNT?
BECAUSE THE FIRST STAGE IS IN A SWAMP, AND I NEED TO MAKE SURE I STILL LOOK GOOD WHEN WE COME BACK OUT. THE PAPARAZZI ARE GOING TO BE WAITING, AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANY BAD PICTURES FLOATING AROUND.
IMAGE IS EVERYTHING.

OH, YEAH. HERE ARE THOSE SUNGLASSES YOU WANTED. WHEN I TOLD THE GUY BEHIND THE COUNTER THEY WERE FOR YOU, HE SAID YOU COULD HAVE THEM FOR FREE!
HE'S HOPING EVERYONE WILL WANT A PAIR AFTER THEY SEE YOU WEARING THEM.


WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT I'D BE A FASHION TRENDSETTER?

THOUGH HARD TO IMAGINE, BLACKSPORE SWAMP WAS ONCE FILLED WITH LUSH FORESTS AND FERTILE FIELDS.
GEOMANCERS CARED FOR THE REGION LIKE SHEPHERDS WATCHING OVER THEIR SHEEP. THEIR GIFTS ALLOWED THEM TO TAP INTO THE MAGIC THAT COURSED THROUGH THE EARTH, AND WITH THAT POWER THEY NURTURED THE LAND.
THE PEOPLE OF THE REGION KNEW PROSPERITY FOR GENERATIONS...BUT THAT PROSPERITY TURNED TO GREED. THE GEOMANCERS BEGAN TO TAKE MORE FROM THE EARTH THAN WAS NEEDED, CAUSING A CATACLYSMIC CHAIN OF EVENTS.
THOUGH SLOWLY AT FIRST, THE LAND BEGAN TO DIE. VIBRANT LANDSCAPES WERE OVERRUN BY MURKY SWAMPLAND. IN TIME, THEIR CITIES WERE DEVOURED, AND THIS UTOPIA WAS LOST.
1804
NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS DEATH AND DECAY.

IS IT JUST ME, OR IS THAT PLACE KIND OF...
WHAT?
YOU KNOW... CREEPY.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY WHEN YOU'RE WEARING THOSE RIDICULOUS SUNGLASSES? THEY MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A GIANT BUG.
I'M SERIOUS. WE'RE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS? NOBODY WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND US.
AS SOON AS WE FIND SOMEONE WHO WILL SPEAK TO US FROM THE GRAVE, WE'RE OUT OF HERE.
ABOUT THAT...I'M NOT BIG ON THE WALKING DEAD, SO MAYBE I CAN STAY HERE AND GUARD THE BOAT WHILE YOU GO LOOKING FOR TALKING CORPSES.
SPLASH
WHAT WAS THAT?

IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A FISH.
NO. THAT WAS WAY BIGGER THAN A FISH.
OKAY, SO MAYBE IT WAS AN ALLIGATOR. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
I JUST WANT TO FIND THAT KEY AND GET OUT OF HERE. WHAT WAS THAT CLUE AGAIN?
"FROM THE CRADLE OF DEATH HE SPEAKS, THOUGH HIS WORDS ARE MEANT TO CONFUSE. ONE KEY WILL UNLOCK THE TRUTH, THE OTHER WILL UNLEASH POWER."
DO YOU STILL THINK THAT THE CRADLE OF DEATH IS A CEMETERY?

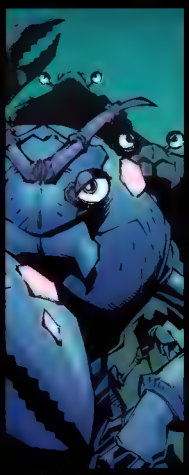
I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE IT COULD BE.
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT.
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS THOSE THAT *SLUMBER* ARE EITHER ZOMBIES OR GHOSTS. I'M KIND OF HOPING FOR GHOSTS, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
ZOMBIES SMELL TERRIBLE.
SPLASH
WHOA. I SUPPOSE YOU'RE GOING TO SAY *THAT* WAS A FISH TOO, RIGHT?
MAYA...?

UH-OH.
I TOLD HER THAT WASN'T A FISH, BUT NOOOO...
DON'T WORRY, SHE SAYS.
IF IT'S NOT A FISH, THEN IT'S PROBABLY JUST AN ALLIGATOR.
ALLIGATOR, MY FOOT. IF THAT'S AN ALLIGATOR, THEN I'M A BUTTERFLY.
IT'S TIME TO GO BRAWLER!

RIP

YOU SAW THAT OUR BOAT DRIFTED AWAY, RIGHT?
YEP.
SO NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
GET INSIDE, QUICK!
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? LET'S GO!
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
IF YOU HAVE A BETTER OPTION, I'M WILLING TO LISTEN.

IT'S JUST THAT I'M CLAUSTROPHOBIC.
SNAP
KLIK
KLIK
SNAP

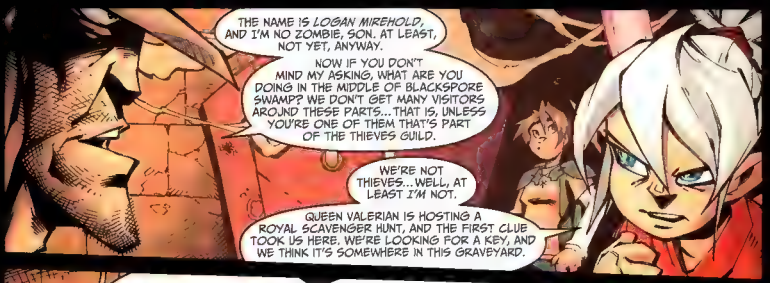


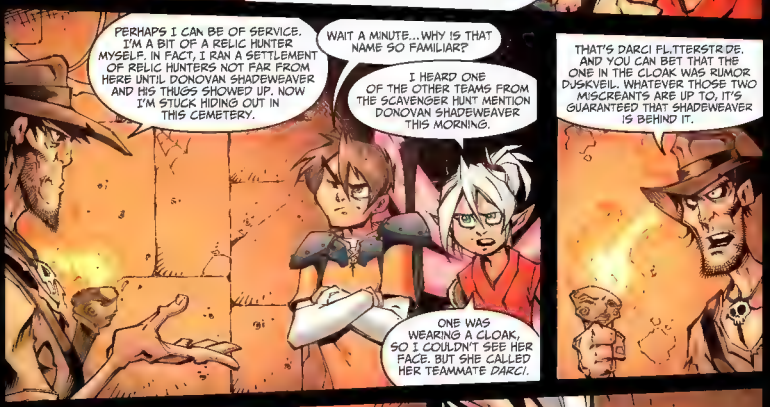
THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT ALL THAT EXCITED ABOUT GETTING CUT IN HALF BY AN OVERGROWN LOBSTER, EITHER.

BESIDES, WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE MAYA WOULD GET INTO IF I WASN'T THERE TO SAVE HER?

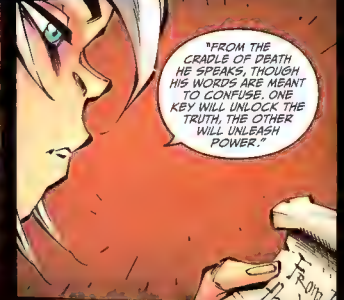
YOU MISSED ME, YOU MISSED ME, NOW YOU HAVE TO...
OOMPH!
YOUR SKULL WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL TROPHY TO ADD TO MY COLLECTION.
HOW ABOUT *THIS* INSTEAD?
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT WOULD MAKE A MUCH NICER TROPHY THAN MY SKULL. SEE? IT'S NICE AND SHINY.
THE GUY I BOUGHT IT FROM SAID IT BELONGED TO AN ELVISH KING. IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE.

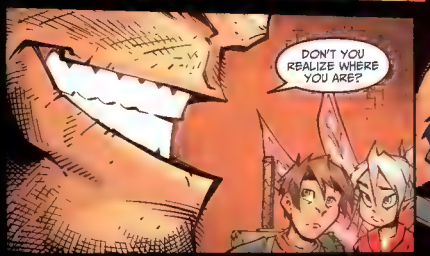
JUST A FEW MORE STEPS...
I CAN'T SEE A THING IN HERE.
IT'S A ZOMBIE!


THE NAME IS LOGAN MIREHOLD, AND I'M NO ZOMBIE, SON. AT LEAST, NOT YET, ANYWAY.
NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE MIDDLE OF BLACKSPORE SWAMP? WE DON'T GET MANY VISITORS AROUND THESE PARTS... THAT IS, UNLESS YOU'RE ONE OF THEM THAT'S PART OF THE THIEVES GUILD.
WE'RE NOT THIEVES... WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT.
QUEEN VALERIAN IS HOSTING A ROYAL SCAVENGER HUNT, AND THE FIRST CLUE TOOK US HERE. WE'RE LOOKING FOR A KEY, AND WE THINK IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THIS GRAVEYARD.

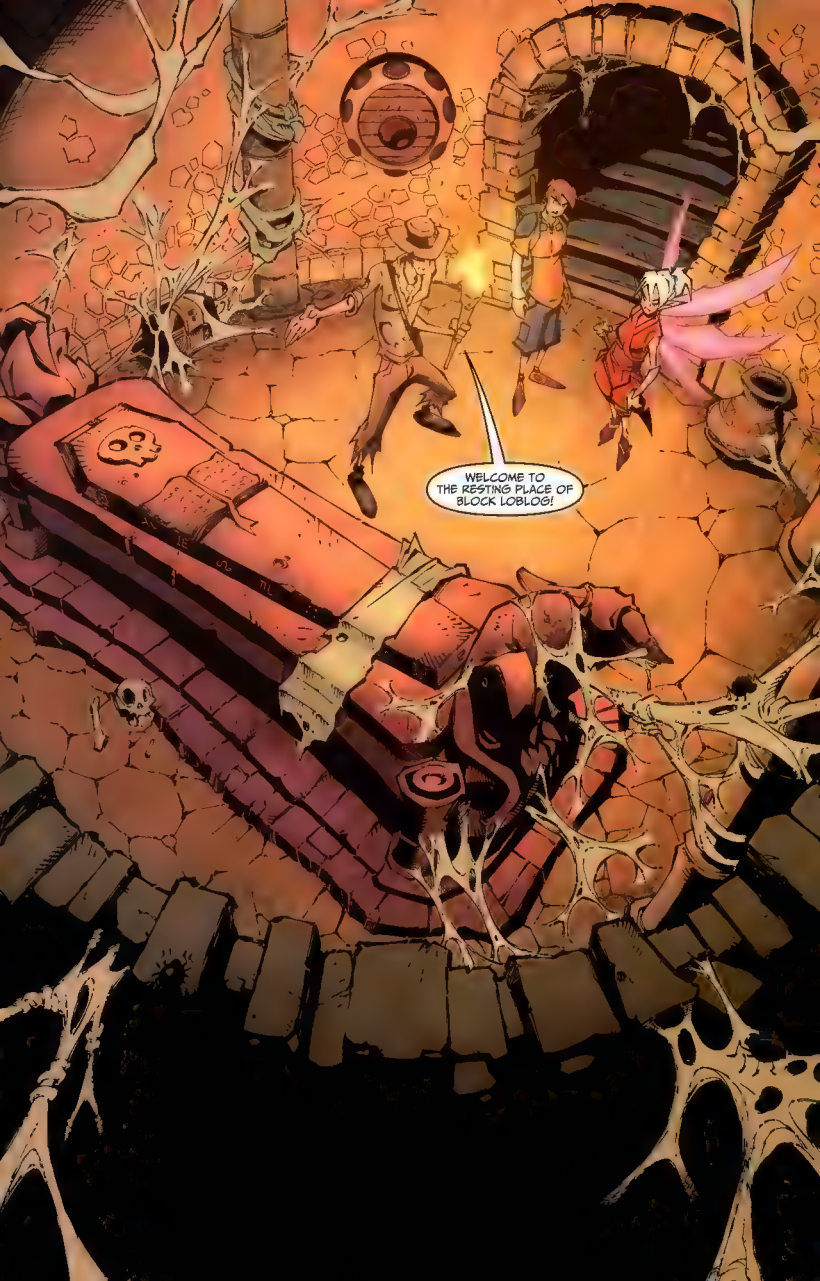

PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SERVICE. I'M A BIT OF A RELIC HUNTER MYSELF. IN FACT, I RAN A SETTLEMENT OF RELIC HUNTERS NOT FAR FROM HERE UNTIL DONOVAN SHADEWEAVER AND HIS THUGS SHOWED UP. NOW I'M STUCK HIDING OUT IN THIS CEMETERY.
WAIT A MINUTE... WHY IS THAT NAME SO FAMILIAR?
I HEARD ONE OF THE OTHER TEAMS FROM THE SCAVENGER HUNT MENTION DONOVAN SHADEWEAVER THIS MORNING.
ONE WAS WEARING A CLOAK, SO I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE. BUT SHE CALLED HER TEAMMATE DARCI.
THAT'S DARCI FLITTERSTRIDE. AND YOU CAN BET THAT THE ONE IN THE CLOAK WAS RUMOR DUSKVEIL. WHATEVER THOSE TWO MISCREANTS ARE UP TO, IT'S GUARANTEED THAT SHADEWEAVER IS BEHIND IT.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
WE BETTER HURRY BEFORE THOSE THINGS BREAK THROUGH. MAYA, CAN YOU READ THE CLUE AGAIN?


"FROM THE CRADLE OF DEATH HE SPEAKS, THOUGH HIS WORDS ARE MEANT TO CONFUSE. ONE KEY WILL UNLOCK THE TRUTH, THE OTHER WILL UNLEASH POWER."


DON'T YOU REALIZE WHERE YOU ARE?

COME ON. FOLLOW ME.


WELCOME TO THE RESTING PLACE OF BLOCK LOBLOG!

FreeRealms™

CLAIM YOUR REWARD!

NEW ACCOUNTS

1. GO TO THE ***FREE REALMS*** WEBSITE - HTTP://WWW.FREEREALMS.COM
2. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE HOME PAGE
3. CLICK THE GREEN "GO!" BUTTON
4. THESE CODES WORK WITH NEW AND EXISTING ACCOUNTS, SO IF YOU'RE A NEW PLAYER YOU'LL HAVE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT AT THIS POINT IF YOU WANT TO CLAIM THE CODE; ON THE ***FREE REALMS*** LOG IN PAGE, CLICK THE "FIRST TIME HERE? START PLAYING FOR FREE!" HYPERLINK.
5. COMPLETE THE NEW ACCOUNT REGISTRATION
6. THE "CONGRATULATIONS!" SCREEN WILL APPEAR, ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR SUCCESSFUL CODE REDEMPTION AND YOUR RECEIPT OF THE IN-GAME ITEM
7. CLICK "CONTINUE"
8. YOU'RE IN! NOW CLICK THE SC ICON IN THE GAME DOCK!
9. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEM CLAIM SCREEN
10. YOU'LL SEE THE *BRAVERY BISCUIT* ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
11. ENJOY YOUR *BRAVERY BISCUIT*

ENTER THIS CODE

EXISTING ACCOUNTS

1. LOG IN AND LAUNCH ***FREE REALMS*** USING THE ACCOUNT AND CHARACTER WHO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE REWARD.
2. SELECT THE SC ICON ON THE GAME DOCK
3. SELECT THE "CLAIM" BUTTON TO LOAD THE ITEMS CLAIM SCREEN
4. ENTER THE CODE INTO THE TEXT FIELD IN THE "REDEEM-A-CODE" BOX ON THE TOP OF THE WINDOW
5. YOU'LL SEE THE *BRAVERY BISCUIT* ITEM IN YOUR PENDING CLAIMS. SELECT IT BY RUNNING THE CURSOR OVER IT AND LEFT-CLICKING, THEN CLICKING ON THE GREEN "CLAIM" BUTTON ON THE RIGHT!
6. ENJOY YOUR *BRAVERY BISCUIT*

BRAVERY BISCUIT

THE STORM FRONT

You've heard a lot about Haiti over the past few weeks, starting with the massive earthquake that all but leveled the capital city of Port-au-Prince. You've seen the heart-breaking footage of thousands of homeless Haitians, screaming in agony, dusty from the debris of their shaken homes. You've heard that Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, the world's most of generations of corruption. You've seen the world mobilize to come to the aid of a nation they wouldn't, until now, have been able to point to on a map–the generosity of millions being brought to bear.

But what you might not have heard is that Haiti is a nation of heroes. Literally. Haiti is the only nation in the history of the world to be founded by slaves who revolted against their masters. Men and women who made a choice, the hardest one imaginable: death or freedom. And that's what makes a hero: choice.

I've thought about that for a long time, the defining characteristic of those we call heroes. When writing a book like THE AUTHORITY, or THE HIGHWAYMEN before it, I've tried to put characters in impossible situations, where the only choices available to them were hard ones. And for inspiration, I've looked back to the land of my father, and his father before him: Haiti, a country where the blood runs deep in the soil and, sadly, is now fresh on the streets.

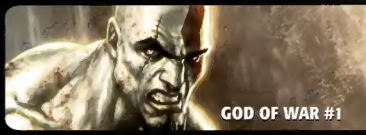
DC Comics has joined with other divisions of Time Warner in lending support to ongoing relief efforts in Haiti, and we here at WildStorm are asking you to help as well. Even donating what you'd spend on one monthly comic to the American Red Cross will go a long way to helping Haiti back from the brink. For more ways to help, visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.

Make the choice. Be a hero. There's a country full of 'em that needs your help.

–Marc Bernardin

Please check WildStorm.com for JIM LEE'S regular column, which will be presented online this month.

OUT THIS MONTH!



COLLECTED EDITIONS:
MYSTERIUS TPB
PROTOTYPE TPB
PLANETARY: SPACETIME ARCHAEOLOGY HC

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at wildstorm.com

NEXT ISSUE: FREE REALMS #8

WILDSTORM

IN STORES MARCH:

ASTRO CITY: THE DARK AGE Book 4 #3
THE AUTHORITY #20
THE AUTHORITY: THE LOST YEAR #7
DANTE'S INFERNO #4
EX MACHINA #48
FREE REALMS #7
GOD OF WAR #1
MODERN WARFARE 2: GHOST #4
RESIDENT EVIL #4
SUPERNATURAL: BEGINNING'S END #3
VICTORIAN UNDEAD #5
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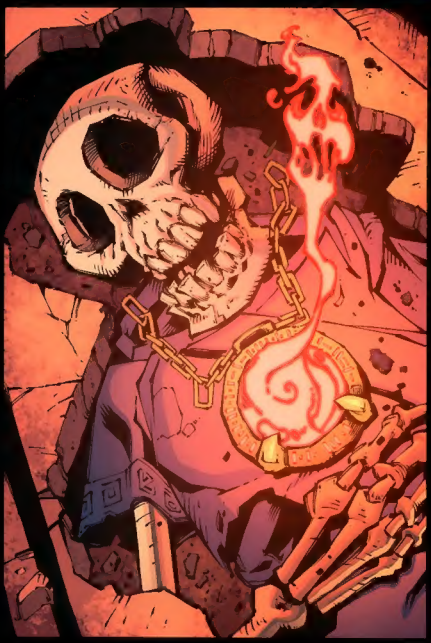
DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company.

WHO THE HECK IS BLOCK LOBLOG?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD ABOUT *THE JOURNAL OF THE LOST*?
THAT OLD DWARF TRAVELED THE REALM SEARCHING FOR STORIES ABOUT EVERYTHING FROM POWERFUL RELICS TO SUNKEN SHIPS FILLED WITH GOLD. HE'D TELL PEOPLE THAT HE WAS WRITING A BOOK ABOUT LOST TREASURES.
THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A STORY.
BLOCK DIED BEFORE THE BOOK GOT PUBLISHED--- THOUGH IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE, HE WAS MURDERED.
SOMEONE WANTED THAT JOURNAL, BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD LEAD TO ALL THE TREASURE.
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURE. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THAT EVEN IF THEY GOT A HOLD OF THE JOURNAL, THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO READ IT. BLOCK WROTE USING A TYPE OF CODE THAT ONLY HE COULD UNDERSTAND.
THAT MUST BE WHAT THE FIRST PART OF THE CLUE MEANT.
EVEN THOUGH BLOCK IS DEAD, HE CAN SPEAK TO US THROUGH HIS JOURNAL. WE JUST HAVE TO FIND IT AND THEN UNSCRAMBLE HIS CODE, OR IT WON'T MAKE SENSE.
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A CROW BAR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I BET THE JOURNAL IS INSIDE THIS COFFIN.

WAIT... THE GUARDIAN!
KABOOM
WHAT GUARDIAN? ALL I SEE ARE THESE CRUMBLING GARGOYLES.



UH...

J.S. Lewis ~ writer
Jon Sommariva ~ penciler
Allen Martinez ~ inker
Bill Crabtree ~ colorist
Wes Abbott ~ letterer
Michael McCalister ~ assistant editor
Shannon Denton & Scott Peterson ~ editors
I'M GOING TO GO OUT ON A LIMB AND SAY THAT MUST BE THE GUARDIAN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.
To be continued!